

I am writing you concerning the ever growing presents of the monopoly in the radio industry. Companies like, Clear Channel, Tribune, Infinity, etc., have changed the face of radio, for the worse. Much like the cookie cutter houses of today's suburbs in many of the metropolitan areas of our country, where all of the houses look the same, all the radio stations sound the same.

Why? Because they are all owned by the same people. Happy with covering the nation with what they think is good radio. Gone are the days of the small radio station that actually served the city. This small station have be purchased, many times by larger companies, placed on a satellite and forgotten about. For many people in the area, they depend on the station to learn about news and weather. But on the satellite they get none of that. Many times that I know of, and I have lived through, the local station, the only place for some people to get information, isn't living up to its duties to serve the public good. A tornado could be ripping down Main Street, but since the radio station is on a satellite service out of Denver, Colorado, they don't care what is happening in Rome, GA. Why should they, they aren't there?

Media monopolies are ruling the air waves, monopolies are illegal and have been for quite sometime. Yet the FCC continues to allow their existence. WHY? They are breaking the law. Setting sales rates, not serving the public interest and other violations of FCC rules. Does the antitrust laws not include radio? It is time for the FCC to stop resting on the piles of money these media monopolies pay it to 'keep quiet' and allow them to do what they want to. It is time for the FCC to tell these media monopolies enough is enough. This country was built on capitalism and the small business owner. But the FCC will not allow that in the radio industry, it is only for the 'big boys'. Without innovation, the market will stagnate, small radio station owners are the people that make radio what is was and what it should be. Do not relax ownership rules, enforce them, use these rules as they should be. Don't turn the FCC into the League of Nations. A paper tiger, just because they have the money, that doesn't mean they rule the air. The FCC does, do your job.

Sincerely,  
Todd Elsen  
Former Radio Professional  
Cave Spring, GA